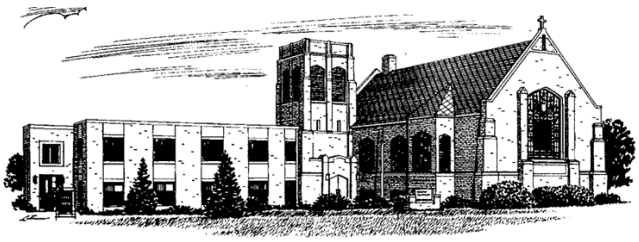


SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Chime Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

January 2015

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming
Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

At our Monday morning prayer time, we have been reading a daily reflection by Charles Ringa, based on the writing of Henri Nouwen. He writes the following about "the gift of hospitality."

One of the most significant ways to serve others is to be present to them. Present not in a smothering or controlling way, but in providing a place of freedom. Such a place can be provided through the ministry of hospitality.

Nouwen points out that hospitality means "the creation of a free space where the stranger can enter and become a friend." Hospitality is thus a gift that we can give to the other person.

Hospitality does not necessarily mean doing something special for the guest or friend. It means being ourselves and allowing another into the rhythm of our family or community life. It means sharing a meal, providing a room. But more importantly, it means being willing both to share something of ourselves and of our life journey and being open to participate in those things that the guest or friend may share.

But hospitality is not only about sharing. It is also providing a free space, providing room where the guest can be still and at peace. Hospitality is not entertainment. It is not crowding the guest. It is a rhythm that allows for freedom and participation in which the guest can be enriched. In exercising such a ministry, we ourselves will also be enriched.

I pray that Saron will practice radical hospitality each and every day. *Pastor Joan*

Annual Meeting

Saron's Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, January 26, 2015. A potluck will follow the 11:00 worship and the meeting is scheduled for 1:00 pm. All voting members of Saron are encouraged to attend, as we adopt a spending plan for 2015, receive reports, and hold elections.

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Serving in the military:

Andy Wedde – North Carolina

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in January Birthday Wishes

Jan. 2 - Betty Ross
Sophie de la Foret
3 – Richard Schalon
4 - Zachery Booth
Kathleen Preston
9 - Anthony Kickles, Jr.
13 - Nicholas Jantz
14 - T. J. Koehler
15 - Meredith Hammer
Pat Breyen
Walter Schmuhl
Colin Ashley
16 - Jonah Rood
18 - Hayley Frey
19 – Kathie Nadeau
23 - Carol Siewert
Patricia Young
24 - Lyra Krall
25 – Karen Johnson
31 - Cathleen Knauf

Happy Anniversary Wishes to the following Members in January …

Jan. 1 - Charles and Linda Pater (25 years)
19 – Steve and Denise Cook (25 years)

For additions or corrections, please call the church office at 983-1273. Thank you.

In Sympathy

We extend our thoughts and prayers to the family of Patrick Ashley, husband of Cami, father of Connor, Colin, and Aiden upon Patrick's death, December 21. Pat's funeral will be at Saron on Saturday, December 27 at 9 AM. Visitation will at Stark's Funeral Home on Friday, December 26, from 1-4 and 6-9 PM.

God is our refuge and strength. Psalm 46:1

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday January 4
Second Sunday of Christmas
Jeremiah 31:7-14
Psalm 147:12-20
Ephesians 1:3-14
John 1:1-18

Sunday January 11
Baptism of Our Lord
Genesis 1:1-5
Psalm 29
Acts 19:1-7
Mark 1:4-11

Sunday January 18
Second Sunday after Epiphany
1 Samuel 3:1-20
Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18
1 Corinthians 6:12-20
John 1:43-51

Sunday January 25
Third Sunday after Epiphany
Jonah 3:1-5, 10
Psalm 62:5-12
1 Corinthians 7:29-31
Mark 1:14-20

Prayer
Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which includes lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Flowers for Worship
The 2015 Flower Chart is now posted in the narthex. Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash.
The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated. Please bring back the empty vases to give back to the florist. THANKS!

Learning book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Sunday School Teachers!
We are actively looking for more teachers to fill the ranks at Saron's Sunday School. Depending on how many teachers we have, you will teach once or twice per month. We are looking for anyone of adult age that is excited to share the Good News with the children of Saron. The foundational teaching of the Bible will allow children to be as excited about Jesus as our adults are! *Contact Scott Gaspari at scottgaspari@outlook.com if you are interested, or have any questions.*

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day
You are invited to join a study and discussion on the Scripture readings that will be used the following Sunday at worship. Join the conversation on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM. During January we will meet on the 14th, 21st, and 28th.

Thursday Morning Study
Join us on January 8 when we begin a study on Mary, mother of our Lord. What do we know about her from the Bible? What do we know from tradition? We meet from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast
Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on January 3, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Men's Weekly Bible Study
Saron's Tuesday Evening Men's Bible Study is on a vacation for the holidays. We'll resume our studies on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at our usual 6:00pm at the church. As always, all men are invited to join us. As the bible says *"As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another" (Proverbs 27:17).*

Bob Kynast, 269-921-2786, bobkynast@gmail.com
David Slater, 269-281-0848,
Davidslater102@gmail.com

1st Sunday Book Group
We will not have a meeting in January. We will come together again on February 8th, 6:30 p.m., in the upstairs lounge. NOTE: This is a date change from the first Sunday of the month to the second Sunday. *The Secret of the Nightingale Palace* by Dana Sachs is the book for discussion.

Sachs tells the story of an estranged grandmother and granddaughter who come together to transport a collection of valuable Japanese art from New York to California. What possibly could go wrong? Read this rather poignant novel and come join in the discussion.

Then on March 1st, we will talk about *Still Life with Bread Crumbs* by Anna Quindlen. Questions? Please call Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Outreach

Supplies Needed

In September Saron very generously donated LOTS of school supplies to four Benton Harbor teachers for their classrooms. At that time I asked the teachers if they needed anything else for their students in January 2015. They gave me a list of much needed items. We will be collecting the following items during the month of December: Kleenex tissues, hand sanitizer, sanitizer wipes, mittens, gloves, scarves and hats. These are for students ages 8 -11 years old. Decorated baskets will be in the narthex for your donated items. Thanks for making a difference in a child's life!

Outreach , Jan Stevens

Meet me at the Freezer

Meet Me at the Freezer meals are for anyone to take and give to someone they know who is in need of a meal. This is a wonderful form of OUTREACH to our neighbors, relatives, or friends - just to show that Saron cares. The meals are in the DINING ROOM FREEZER. Please just sign the DATE that you took a meal; your name is not necessary.

Thank you Kathy Cowall, Linda Pater, Mary Kynast, Joyce Marquardt, Darlene Kiessel, and Colleen Lundgren for all your help!

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

Saron serves at the Soup Kitchen each 4th Thursday of the month. We are in need of LARGE CANS of FRUIT; those may be brought to church at any time. I am always looking for more cookie bakers and servers. Give me a call if you'd like to help out .

Thanks, Jan Stevens 429-2044

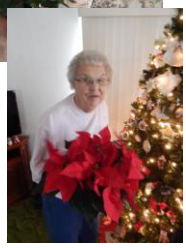
LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, and cocoa at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas, and now we are offering Keurig cups. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

BUCK HUNGER

November 23, 2014 Saron teamed together with other community organizations to "Buck Hunger." The Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen encouraged us to bring awareness to the problem of HUNGER stressing that if each of us gave $1.00 (a buck!) that when those dollars were totaled, $1.00 WOULD make a difference! Our "Crock Pot "offering plate was filled. Through your generosity Saron was able to give the Soup Kitchen $235.00. Thank you for helping to BUCK HUNGER .

Poinsettias



The star-shaped leaf pattern is said to symbolize the Star of Bethlehem, one of the many reasons we associate the poinsettia plant with Christmas. In December, poinsettias were delivered to some of our members, who at times may find it difficult to attend worship services - a small way to spread love and joy and caring from our congregation during this Holy Season.

Used Eye Glass Collection

If you have any used glasses that are no longer of use to you, bring them in and place them in the box located in the narthex. They are collected by the local Lions organization for their mission trips to assist people to see once again. The work is an ongoing task of the Lions.

Thank You,
Keith Stevens
St. Joseph Township Lions

BLOOD DRIVE

Mark your 2015 calendars for Saron's next BLOOD DRIVE! Monday, February 16 is the date! Michigan Blood will be running our blood drive again, so roll up your sleeves and GIVE so others may LIVE.

Thank you, Keith Stevens

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle

Deborah Circle's Christmas Party will be held at the home of Karen Johnson on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 6:30 p.m. Everyone should bring a dish to pass (not dessert) and also a monetary gift for the Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen.

SARON CHURCH WOMEN BAKE SALE

Saron Church Women thanks everyone who participated in the Bake Sale held on December 7, 2014. Proceeds from that day came to $515.75, all for the Mentor Family Fund. Thanks again, everyone!

Thanks, also, for the continued donations for the fund on December 14, totaling an additional $76.00. Mentor Family Fund donations are accepted throughout the year.

On Sunday, January 11 , 2015 Saron Church Women Officers and Leaders will be installed. They are:

President: Melanie McCammon
Vice President: Linda Pater
Secretary: Janet Oleson
Treasurer: Denise Cook
Mission: Action Chair: Colleen Lundgren
CWU Representative: Irma Gorman
Deborah Circle Chair: Melanie McCammon
Dorcas Circle Co-Chair: Marybeth Culverhouse and Irma Gorman

Rummage Sale

On Saturday, June 13, 2015, Saron Church Women will be having a rummage sale in the church dining room. Please save items for the sale. We will let you know later when items may be brought to the church. Thank you.

Hospitality

A Word on Coffee Hour After Church

…and why it's an important part of our time together each Sunday. Coffee hour (with treats) in the Narthex is our opportunity to connect – or re-connect – with our Saron family, visitors, and guests. It's the time when we chat about what's happening in our lives – and get to know each other better as we share our daily joys and/or concerns, or as we welcome someone new and discover what has brought that person to Saron. Providing light snacks for this fellowship time is a sign of the hospitality and friendship we offer to each worshipper, each Sunday. We encourage everyone to stay around a few minutes to enjoy each other's company, and we encourage those who can to help us by providing the refreshments that set the stage for this time we spend together. Check the sign-up sheet on the kiosk to see what dates are open. Thank you for your help with this special ministry.

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

ST. OLAF CHOIR

Sunday, February 1, 2015, 4:00 p.m.
Chenery Auditorium, Kalamazoo

The St. Olaf Choir, a college of the ELCA, with 75 mixed voices, is the premiere a cappella choir in the United States and has been the standard for choral excellence for over a century. Conducted by Anton Armstrong since 1990, the St. Olaf Choir continues to develop the tradition that originated with its founder, F. Melius Christiansen. Ticket Information

269-337-7407 or kalamazoobachfestival.org

Support

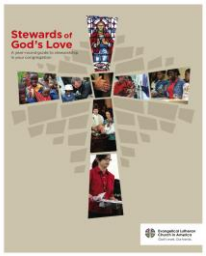
TIME TO RENEW THE LUTHERAN MAGAZINE

Those that have been enjoying The Lutheran magazine this past year or those who would like to begin receiving The Lutheran will be able to purchase or renew for the price of **$9.00** a year. Please make out a check to Saron and write **"The Lutheran"** in the memo area of your check or place cash in an envelope with your name, amount enclosed and place "The Lutheran" on an envelope. We want to get all of the subscriptions in as soon as possible so that you will begin receiving or continue receiving without a lapse in your monthly subscription.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions or to enroll. Thanks.

STEWARDS OF GOD'S LOVE



God gives because God loves. God gives to us because God loves us. And when we give our offerings to God as an act of worship we reflect that love. We love God back.

Powell, Mark A., Giving to God:
The Bible's Good News
About Living a Generous Life, 2006

As we give thanks for a new year let us remember with gratitude all that God has given us: our time and talents, our treasures and our very lives. May we use our lives to be the eyes and hands and feet of Christ as we show his love and compassion.

We are especially thankful for the generosity of Saron's people. May we continue to give with thankful hearts and deeds and may God guide us as we live out our mission in 2015.

God's work. Our hands.

STOCK DONATIONS

Saron partners with Scottrade, a brokerage firm, to accept stock donations. If you would like to donate stock contact our representative , Bill Fuentas, at (574) 272-1980. The statements we receive from Scottrade do not identify who donated the stock so please notify Eric Standen or Denise Cook when you have donated. This allows us to complete the transaction and to be sure it's added to your giving statement. If you have further questions or concerns contact Eric or Denise.

Council News

Attendance Record	
11/30/2014	*108*
12/07/2014	*112*
12/14/2014	*132*
12/21/2014	*102*

Saron's Council Members – 2014

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Secretary, Learning*
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Steve Bell (429-0239) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Youth*
Connor Ashley – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Frieda Williams – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office;
983-2475 home) – Pastor
**liaison*

ARE YOU A THRIVENT MEMBER?

Did you know that you, individually, as a Thrivent member, have opportunities and access to Thrivent programs and resources to help you strengthen your congregation and community? Reach out with an Action Team. If you are a Thrivent member or have interest in becoming one, please contact Pastor or the church office with your name so that we can give you more information on this new Thrivent endeavor.

Facilities

A COUPLE OF REQUESTS

Is your group using the building? Please make sure you are placed on the church calendar. As the building gets used more and more we need to make sure that we don't have conflicts regarding space. Requests for building use will be processed through the church office.

Also….

Help us be good neighbors! If you are taking out the garbage at Saron, please make sure it gets into Saron's garbage can next to our "out building" near the alley and not in one of our neighbor's garbage cans. And if the garbage can is full, place the plastic bag next to the garbage can or if you have the ability to take it home, we invite you to do so. This includes recyclables. Thank you so much!

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEEDS HELP!

Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren , Bill Oleson or Pastor Joan.

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS FOR JANUARY

Jan. 4 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Com.Assist: Jan Stevens
Acolyte: Troy Burrow
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Allen Synder
Nursery:

Jan. 11 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister:
Reader Intinction: Wendy King
Acolytes: Danielle Hohman
Ushers: Eric and Deborah Standen
Nursery:

Jan. 18 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minster:
Reader/Com. Assist: Steve Bell
Ushers: John and Kerrie Hoodlebrink
Acolyte: Brandon Burrow
Nursery:

Jan. 25 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister:
Reader/Intinction: Eric Standen
Ushers: Fritz Knauf and Jim Manore
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Nursery:

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer.

Jan. 4 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Dennis Lundgren
Reader/Com. Assist: Colleen Lundgren
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Ushers: Peter and Karen Johnson
Nursery:
Building Closing: Ken Ark

Jan. 11 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister:
Reader: Debra Adams-Hurst
Intinction: Pat Breyen
Acolytes: Drew Huff and Austin Kamala
Ushers: John Olson and Austin Kamala
Nursery:
Building Closing: Dan Gustafson

Jan. 18 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minster:
Reader/Com. Assist: Brian Culverhouse
Ushers: Pat Breyen and Betty Appel
Acolyte: Grant Gacek
Nursery:
Building Closing: Colleen and Dennis Lundgren

Jan. 25 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister:
Reader/Intinction: Mary Kynast
Ushers: Jack and Cheryl Houser
Acolyte: Connor Ashley and Aiden Ashley
Nursery:
Building Closing: Bob and Mary Kynast

Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

January 2015

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

JANUARY 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	DECEMBER 2014 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	FEBRUARY S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	*New Year's Eve*	1 *Circumcision and Name of Jesus* *New Year's Day*	2	3 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion Breakfast
Holy Com./Children's Ser. 4 *Second Sunday of (after) Christmas* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Learning	5 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group Annual Report Articles Due	6 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	7 9:30am G.Hammers NO Bible Study	8 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	9	10
Intinction /Children Ser 11 *Baptism of Our Lord* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Learning 11:00 a.m. Installation of Saron Church Women Officers	12 9am Newsletter Articles Due 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	13 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	14 9:30am G.Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Deborah Circle Christmas Party	15 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	16	17
Holy Com./Children's Ser 18 *Second Sunday after Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Learning	19 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Council Meeting	20 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	21 9:30am G.Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	22 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal Soup Kitchen Day	23	24
Intinction /Children Ser 25 *Third Sunday after Epiphany* 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship 9:40 a.m. Learning 12:00 p.m. Potluck 1:00 p.m. Annual Meeting	26 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	27 6:00 p.m. Men's Bible Study	28 9:30am G.Hammers 1:00pm Bible Study	29 9:30 a.m. Bible Study 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00 p.m. Senior Choir Rehearsal	30	31